

Calls to Police related to alcohol

Matamata Piako District

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CAVEAT

Police data examined in this report is drawn from a dynamic operational database and is subject to change as new information is continually recorded. It is only as accurate as the information contained in the databases at the time that it is sourced. Statistics from provisional data are counted differently than official statistics and should not be compared.



Key Findings

Analysis of calls to the Police was conducted in relation to events occurring within Matamata Piako District from January 2008 to December 2012. During that time, within this area, the Police received 5,235 calls for types of events that are typically related to alcohol increasing approximately four percent per year on average during this period.

The following has been identified:

- Numbers of calls to Police related to alcohol harm have increased in the past five years; the reasons for this have not been investigated.
- Across the district calls to Police related to alcohol harm were concentrated in locations with licensed premises especially Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha.
- There was no observed patterns of calls to Police related to alcohol harm through the year.
- The peak times for calls to Police related to alcohol harm were Friday night to Saturday morning and Saturday night to Sunday morning.

The Police would like to strengthen partnerships with the Matamata Piako District Territorial Authority to develop solutions that will reduce the demand currently placed on Police resources. This may be achieved by:

- Restrictions on trading hours for on-license and off-license premises;
- One way door policies for on license premises;
- Caps on the numbers of licensed premises; and
- Restriction on where licensed premises can be located.



Introduction

1. The operating strategy for New Zealand Police to 2015 is *Prevention First*. The strategy is aimed at preventing crime before it happens using targeted policing, partnerships, and focusing on the drivers of crime.
2. The new Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012 states that when developing a draft or provisional Local Alcohol Policy, a Territorial Authority must consider a range of factors set out in the Act, including the nature and severity of the alcohol-related problems arising in the district¹. To that end, the Police (along with Licensing Inspectors and Medical Officers of Health) must make reasonable efforts to give the Territorial Authority any relevant information they may hold².
3. This report analyses calls made by the public to the Police. In each case the Police employee who takes the call, categorises the incident based on what the caller tells them into basic event types such as violence and disorder. These calls are then recorded in the Police Communications and Resource Deployment (CARD) database. An event can be re-categorised into different types throughout the life of a call, so for the purposes of this analysis, event types are considered at the time of call closure.
4. Although CARD does not hold information on whether alcohol was consumed by the offender or by the victim, certain types of events are typically considered to be related to alcohol. These are:

Grievous Assaults	Sexual Affronts	Disorder
Serious Assaults	Abduction For Sex	Breach Of The Peace
Minor Assaults	Sexual Attacks	Obstructing/Hindering/Resisting
Intimidation/Threats	Rape	Unlawful Assembly
Crimes Against Personal Privacy	Domestic Dispute	Breach Of Local Council Liquor Ban
Drunk Custody/Detox Centre	Domestic Violence	Sale of Liquor offences (old Act)
Drunk Home	(Sale and Supply of Alcohol offences – new Act)	

5. The calls analysed in this report were made between 1 January 2008 and 31 December 2012 and fall into the categories listed above. They are presented visually in the attached maps by individual years. In the future, yearly updates will be provided. The calls do not include those initiated by the Police (that is officer-discovered contact with the Communications Centre) and exclude duplicate calls.
6. In this analysis, the calls to the Police were spatially analysed using a hot spotting technique called Gi*. The Gi* technique aggregates events to a grid, the size of which depends on the area of analysis. The totals within each grid square are then compared with each other across the entire study area.
7. Gi* compares local averages with global averages, identifying those areas where the local averages (for example concentrations of crime) are significantly different from the global averages (in comparison to what is generally observed across the whole study area).
8. Gi* identifies if the local pattern of crime is different from what is generally observed across the whole study area, and produces a level of significance. The areas identified as not significant are those where clustering would likely have occurred due to chance and not due to the location itself.
9. As Gi* adds statistical significance to hotspot analysis, it shows which hotspots are significant, and alerts to something unusual occurring at specific locations.

¹ Sections 78 and 79(2) of the Act

² Section 78(4) of the Act



10. Hotspots identified as 99.9 percent significant using the Gi* technique are most likely to be locations that are generators, attractors, or enablers of crime. Focusing on these locations and determining the underlying causes of crime happening there is likely to reduce the level of crime across the overall study area.
11. The Appendix includes:
 - Map one – first level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events in the given year for the entire Territorial Authority.
 - Map two – second level hotspots; Gi* analysis of alcohol-related events that occurred only in those locations that were identified as 90 percent significant hotspots from map one. If multiple second level hotspots are present, multiple maps are provided.
 - Data clocks – time distribution of events that occurred within the second-level hotspots, showing when those events took place.
 - Map of licensed premises – the data (current as at 2011) was sourced from the Local Licensing Authority and provided to the Police by Massey University in May 2013. The displayed licensed premises are only of those types that Massey University consider to contribute to alcohol-related harm; these are supermarkets, bottle stores, grocery stores, night clubs, and taverns. The map shows the distribution and number of on-licensed and off-licensed premises. As the data relates to 2011, there may have been some changes to the licensed premises since that time.

Background

Overview

12. Matamata-Piako is a rural district in the Waikato Region with a population of approximately 30,000.³ The populace resides in three main towns, Matamata, Morrinsville and Te Aroha, and a number of small settlements predominantly located along State Highway 26 and State Highway 27.
13. Liquor licensing in the district is controlled by the District Licensing Agency.⁴
14. The general policy for on-license premises located less than 250m from any residential area allows liquor to be sold from Monday to Sunday between 0700 hours and midnight. For premises greater than 250m from a residential area the maximum hours shall not exceed 0700 hours to 0300 hours the following day seven days a week.
15. General licensing policy for off-licenses allows alcohol to be sold between 0700 hours and 2300 hours from Thursday to Saturday and 0700 hours to 2200 hours from Sunday to Wednesday in residential areas.
16. Club licenses generally allow operation between 0800 hours and 0100 hours the following day.
17. A 24 hour, seven day a week liquor ban applies to areas within Matamata, Morrinsville, Te Aroha and Waharoa.⁵

³ 2006 census population data

⁴ Matamata-Piako District Licensing Agency (2001). *Liquor Licensing Policy*. Matamata Piako District Council

⁵ Matamata-Piako District Council (2008). *Public Safety Bylaw 2008*. Matamata-Piako District Council.



Analysis

Calls for service

18. Calls to Police related to alcohol harm in the Matamata-Piako area have increased by approximately 18 percent in the five years from 2008 to 2012.

Year	Alcohol-related events
2008	977
2009	921
2010	989
2011	1,158
2012	1,190
Total	5,235

19. There are several possible reasons for this including:

- More calls being made by the general public due to improved communications (more mobile phones);
- More calls due to increased public awareness of issues such as domestic violence;
- Changes in Police tactics such as increases in staff numbers at high risk times and locations.

20. There was no obvious peak in calls throughout the year.

21. Timings showed an increase in numbers through the week and an increase through each day. Peaks occurred on Friday night/ Saturday morning and Saturday night/ Sunday morning.

22. Anecdotal these times correspond with the periods when large numbers of people engage in recreational drinking.

Hot Locations

23. Most of the calls to Police related to alcohol harm were in the main towns (See appendices).

24. A large amount of research has been undertaken to attempt to explain and quantify the relationship between alcohol harm and liquor outlet density. In Matamata-Piako, the hot locations reflect the locations of licensed premises (see Appendices)

Matamata

25. Calls to Police related to alcohol harm were concentrated through the town centre where a large number of licensed premises are located.

26. There was a progressive extension of the second level hot spot area to the southern and eastern parts of the town from 2008 and 2012.

Morrinsville

27. The second level hot spots show that the main concentration of calls to Police related to alcohol harm was in the centre and southern parts of the town where a large number of licensed premises are located.

28. A concentration was also observed in the residential area in the north west of the town.

29. There were no notable changes in hot spot locations between 2008 and 2012.

30. It is possible that after on-license premises close, some drinkers migrate to Hamilton due to the longer opening hours there.

Te Aroha

31. The second level hot spots show that the main concentration of calls to Police related to alcohol harm occurred in the north of the town. There are three licensed premises in this area. A second smaller concentration occurred in the southern part of town where a large number of licensed premises are located.

32. Between 2008 and 2012 the hot spot activity moved from the south of the town to the north.

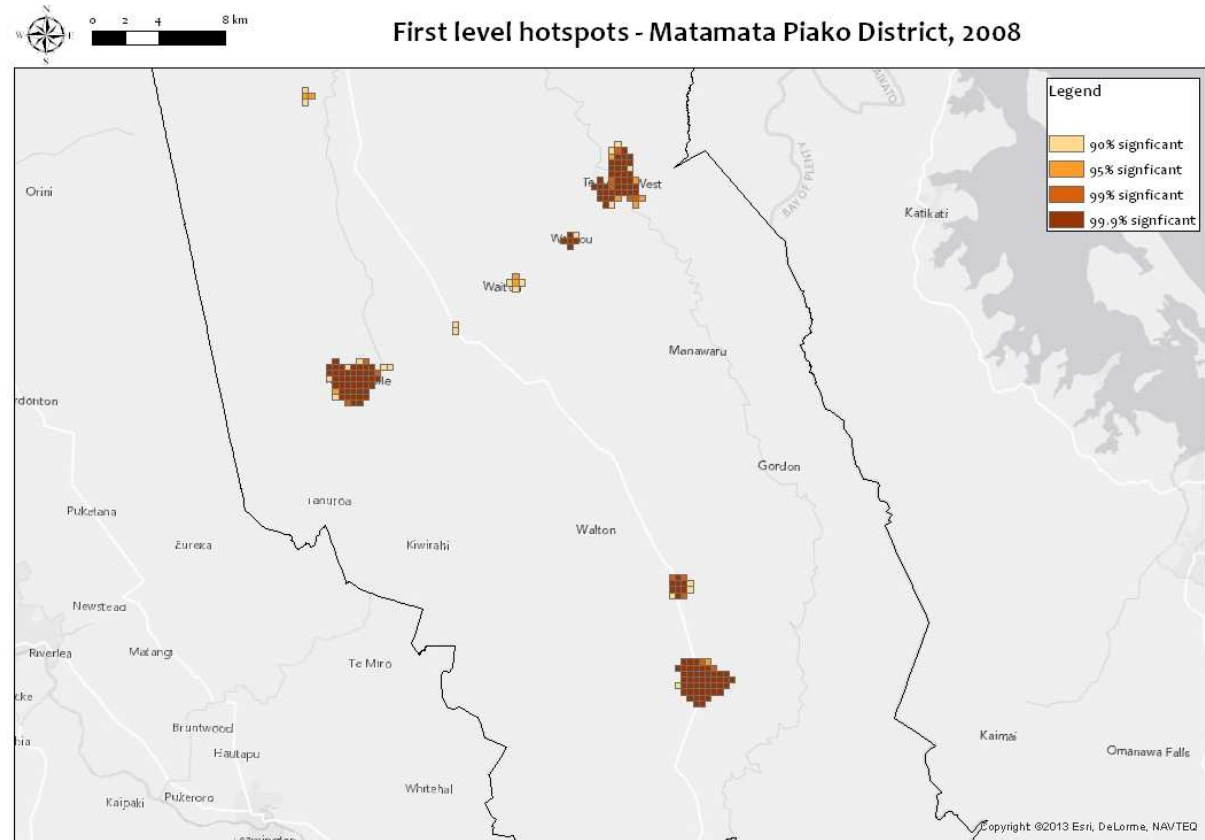


Possible Prevention Measures

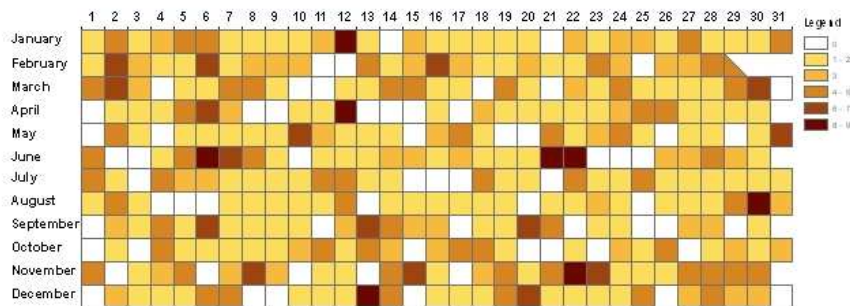
33. The following conditions could be considered to reduce the risk of alcohol harm.

- Reduce trading hours for all on-license premises to no later than midnight each day of the week.
- Reduce trading hours for off-license premises from 0900 hours to 2100 hours.
- One way door policies for on-licenses at least one hour before closing time.
- A cap on the numbers of licensed premises in each town in the district.
- Restrictions on the locations of licensed premises to reduce the risk of alcohol harm for example in proximity to schools and school routes.

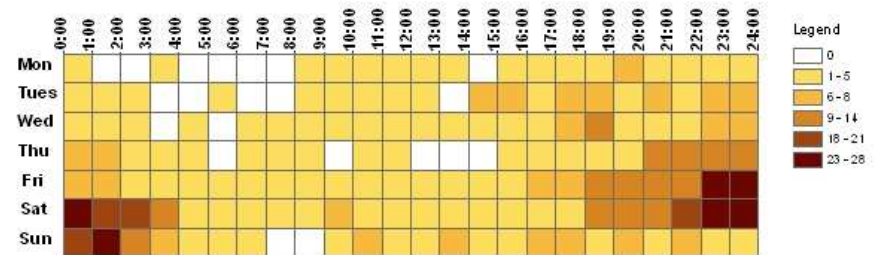
Appendix – Hotspot Maps and Data clocks



Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2008

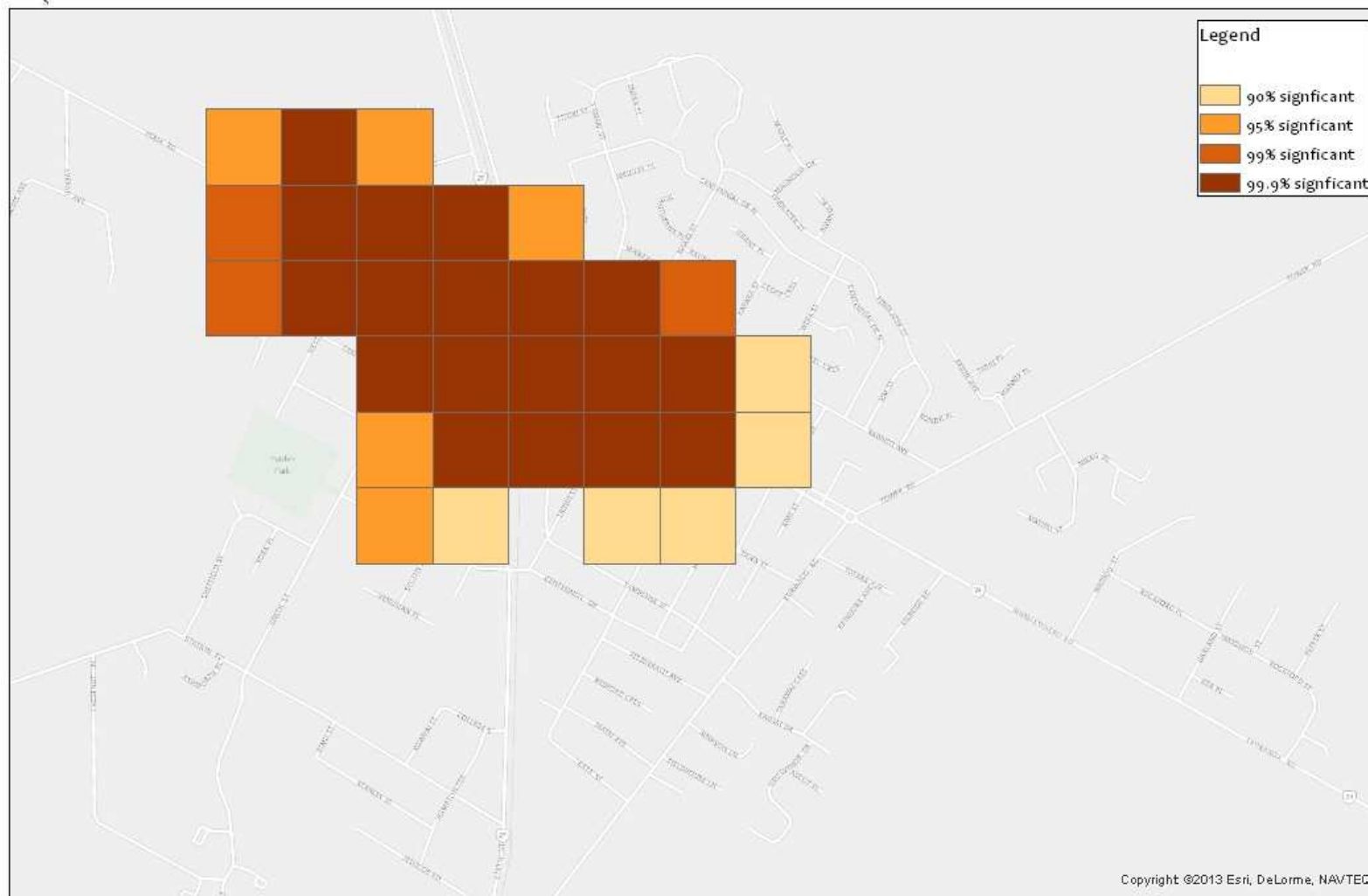


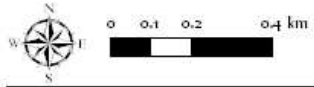
Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2008



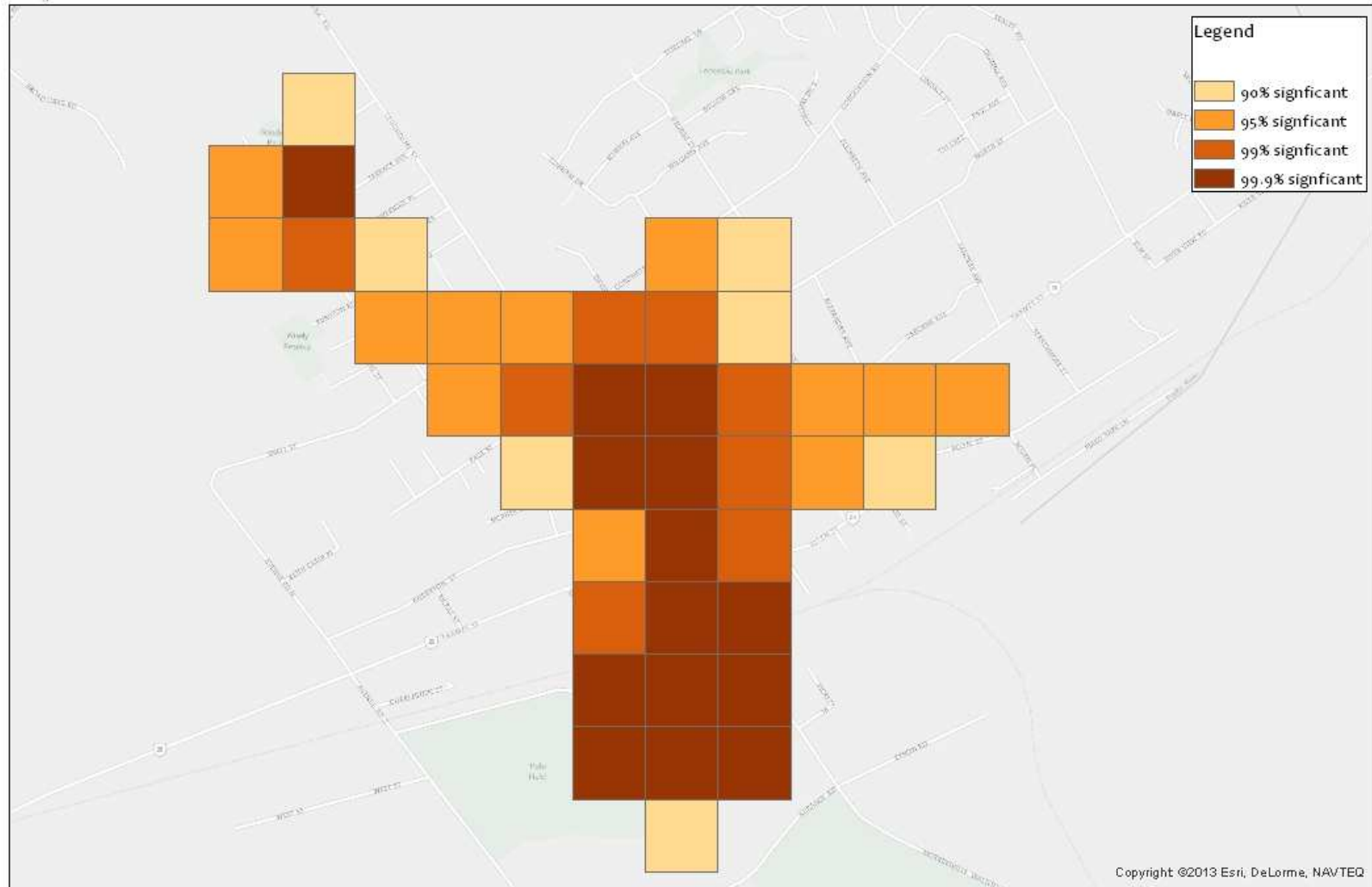


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2008 (Matamata)



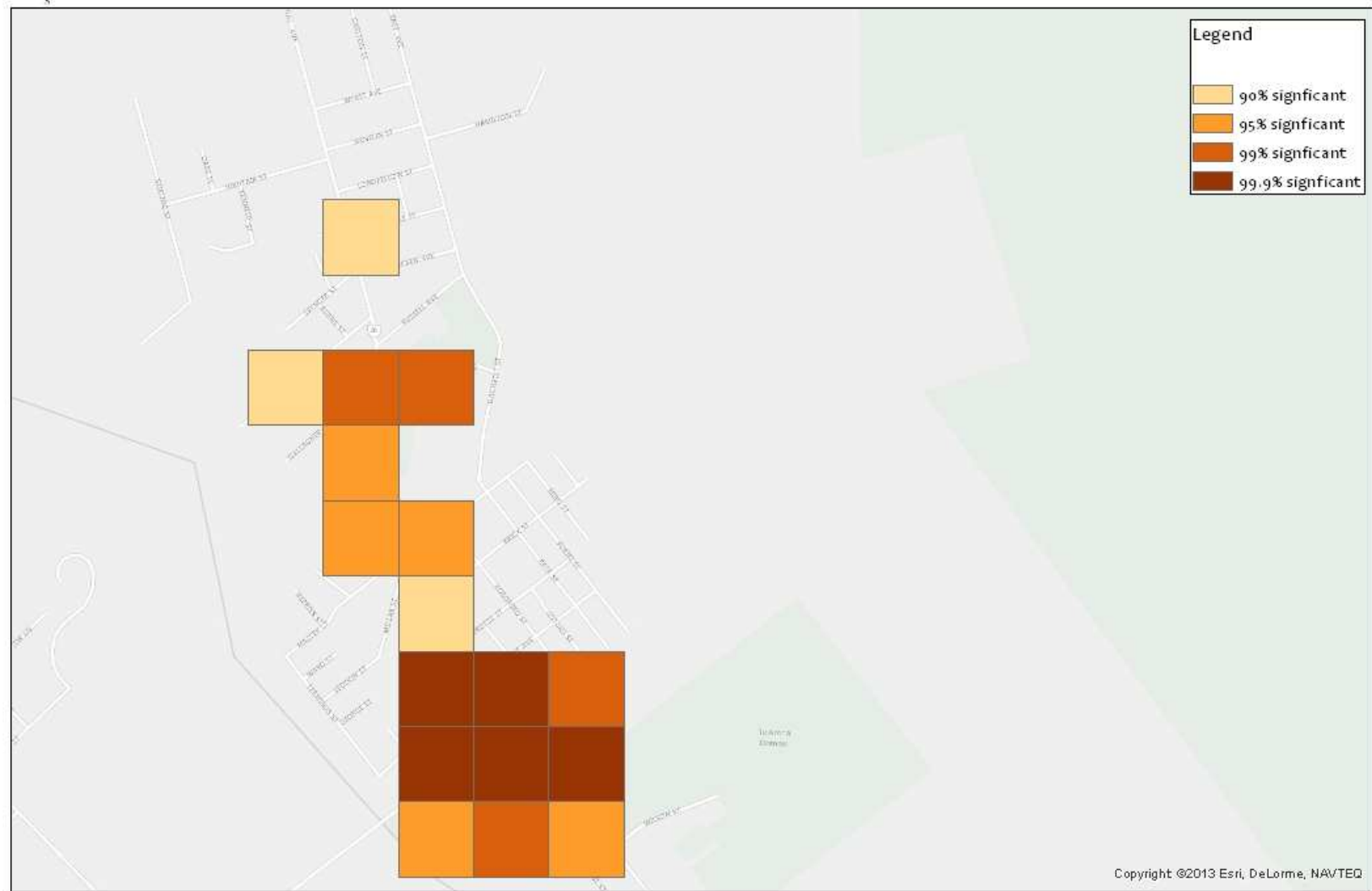


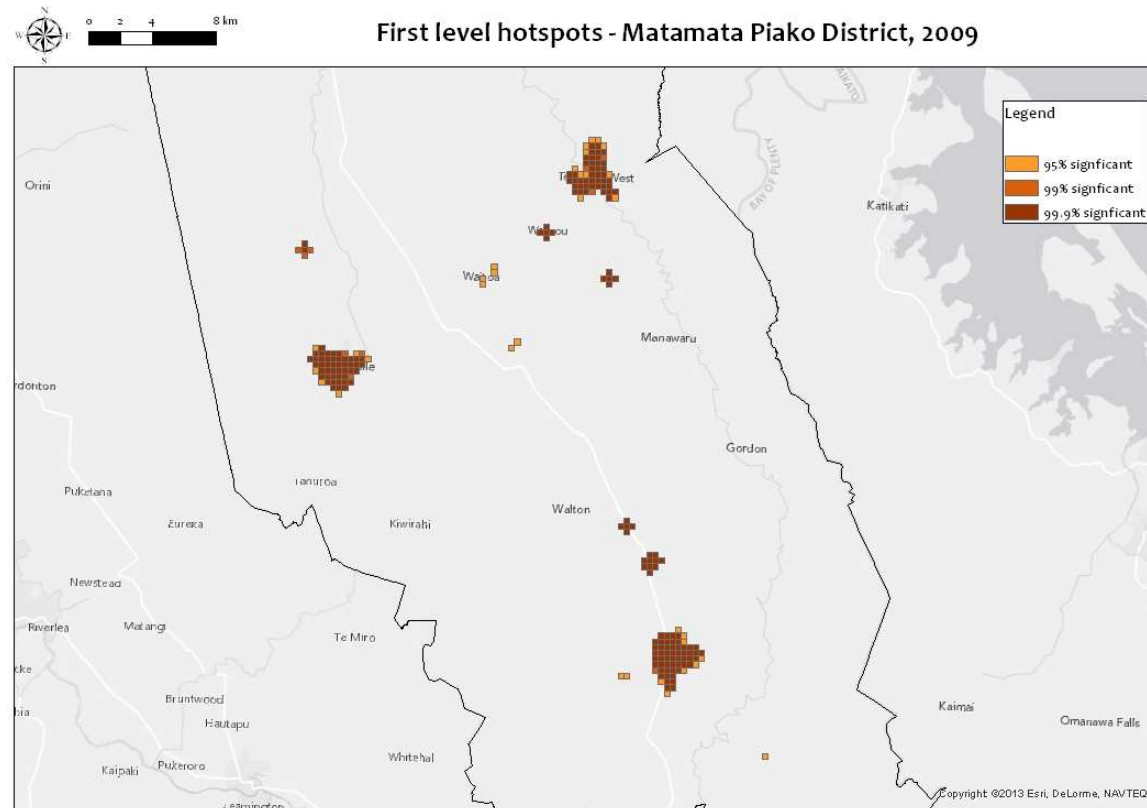
Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2008 (Morrinsville)



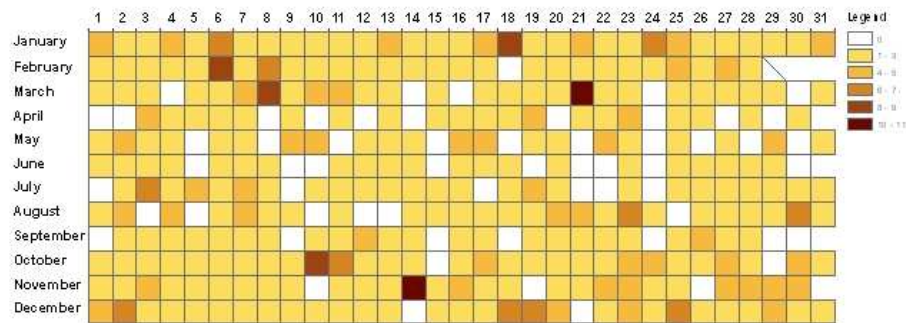


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2008 (Te Aroha)

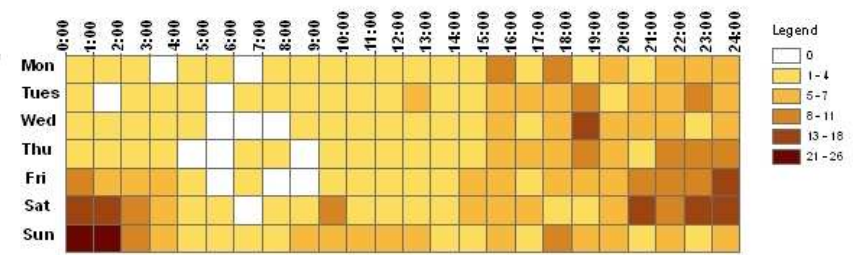




Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
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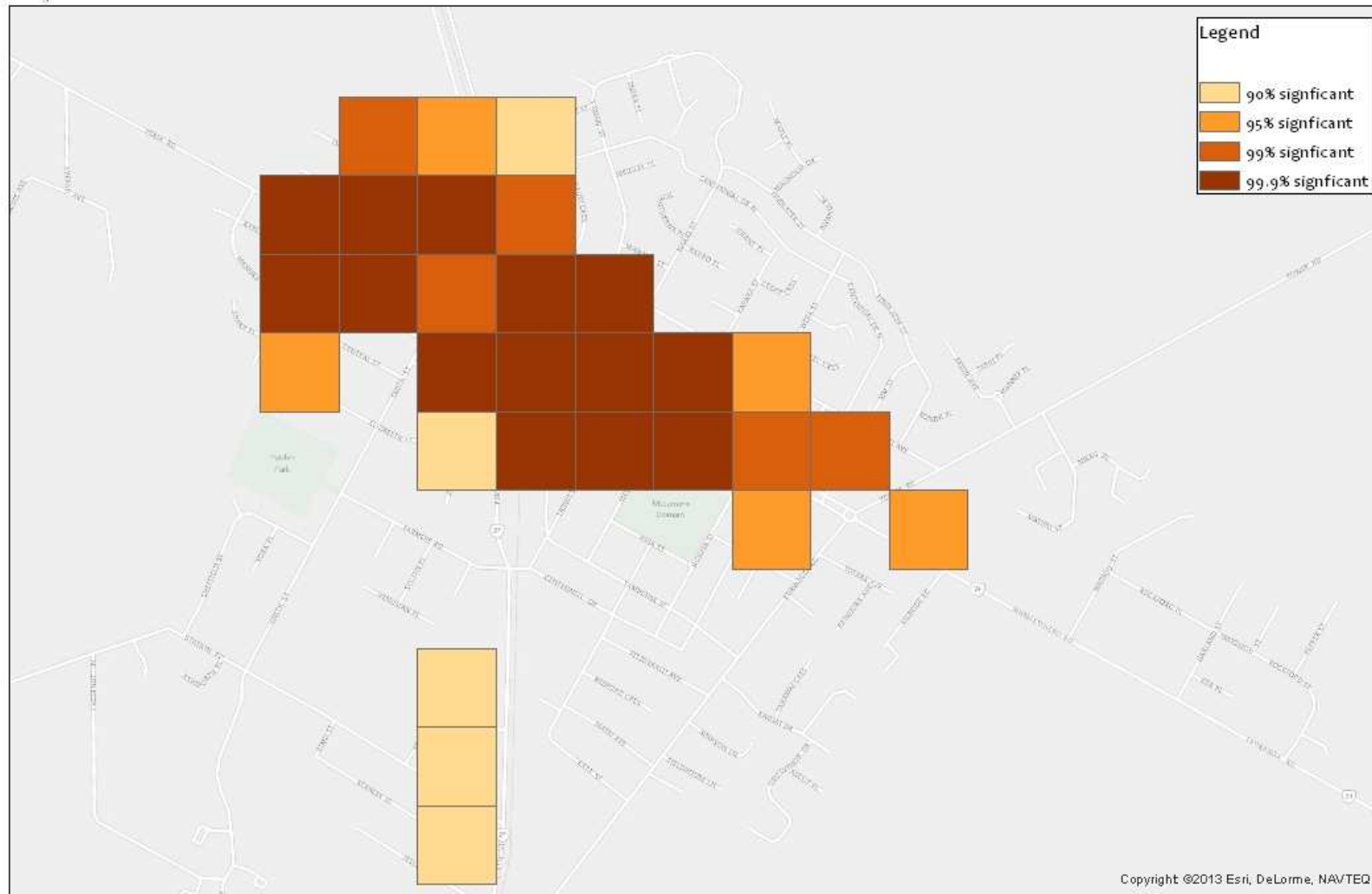


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2009



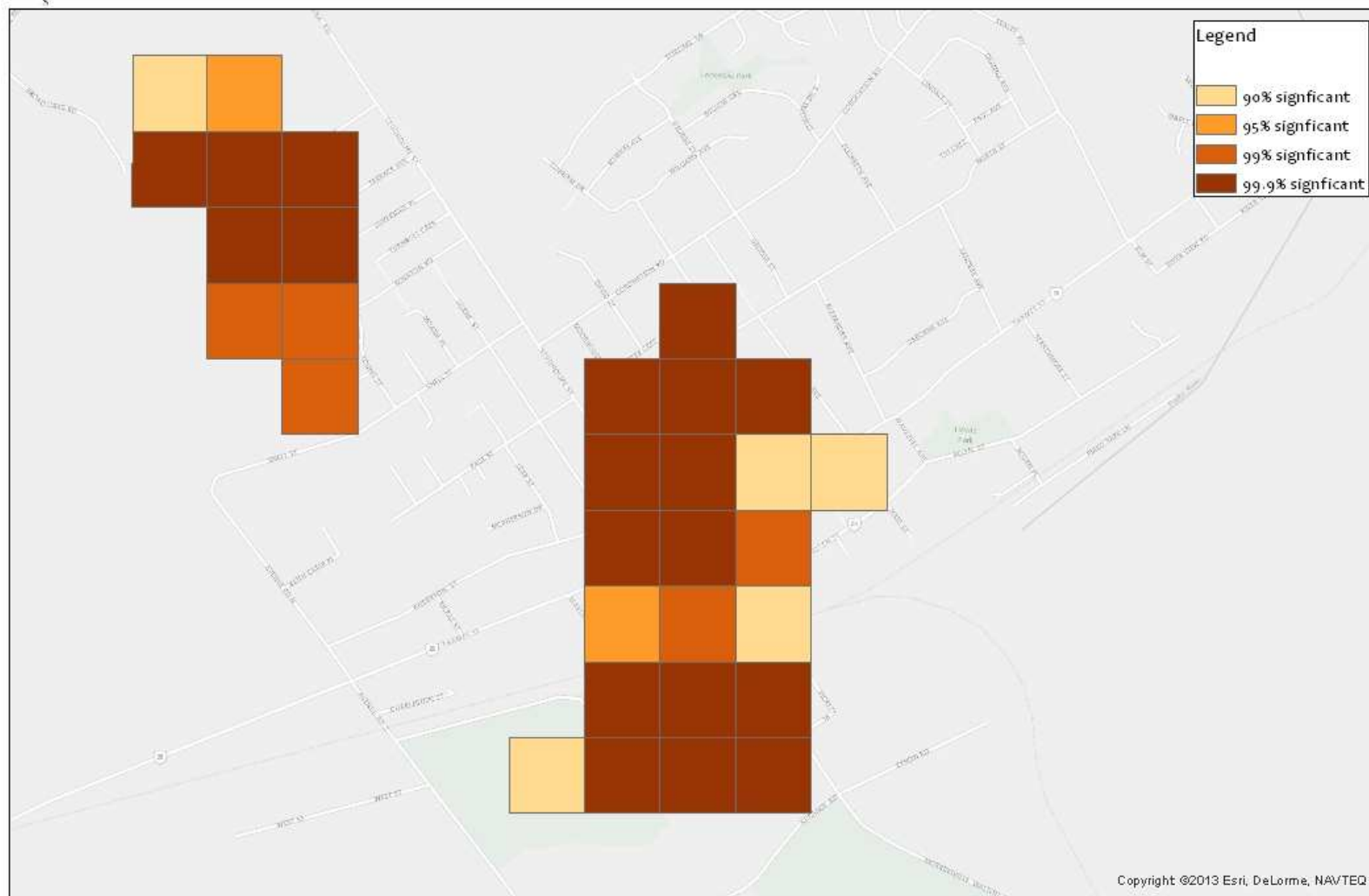


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2009 (Matamata)



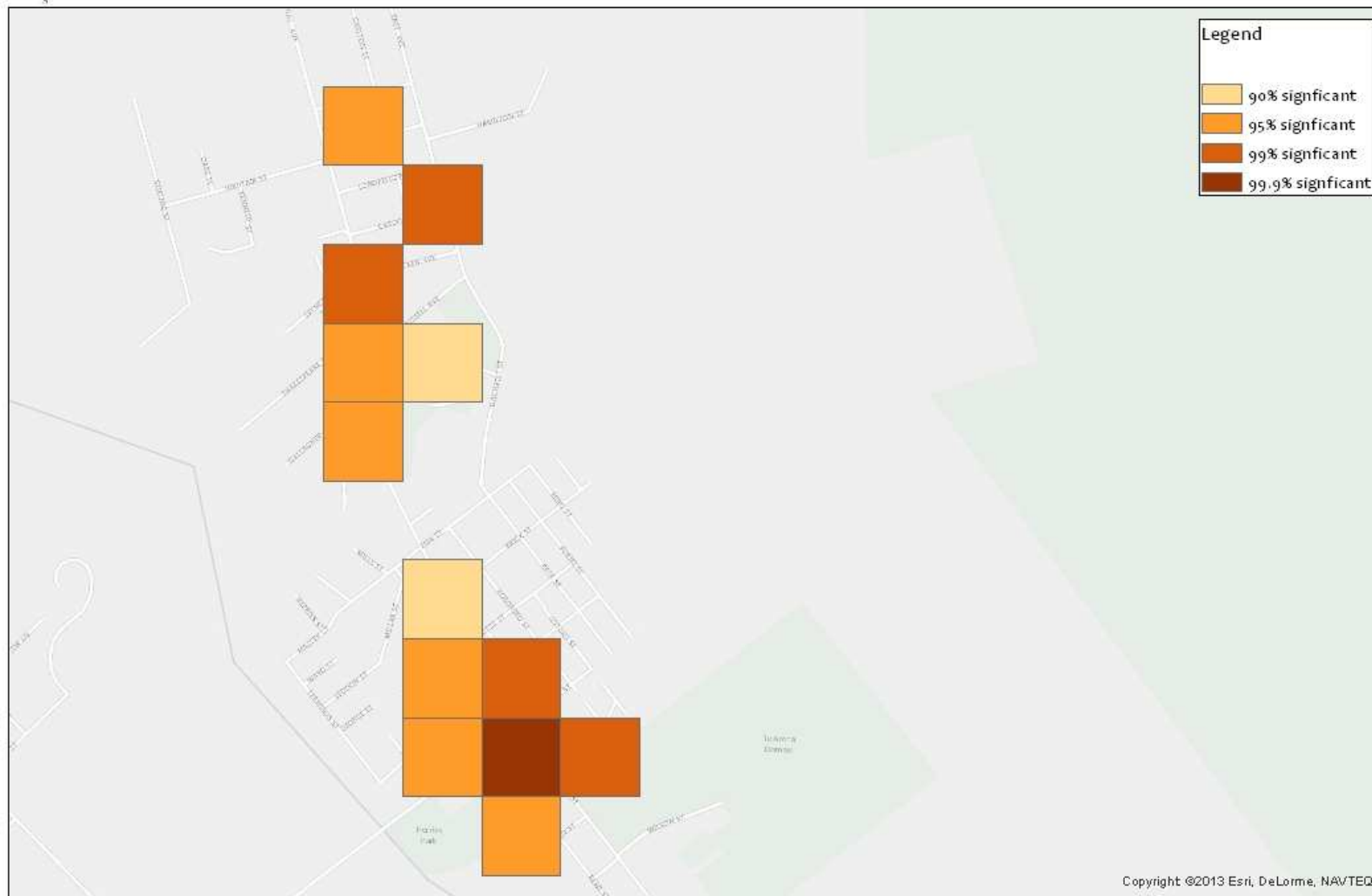


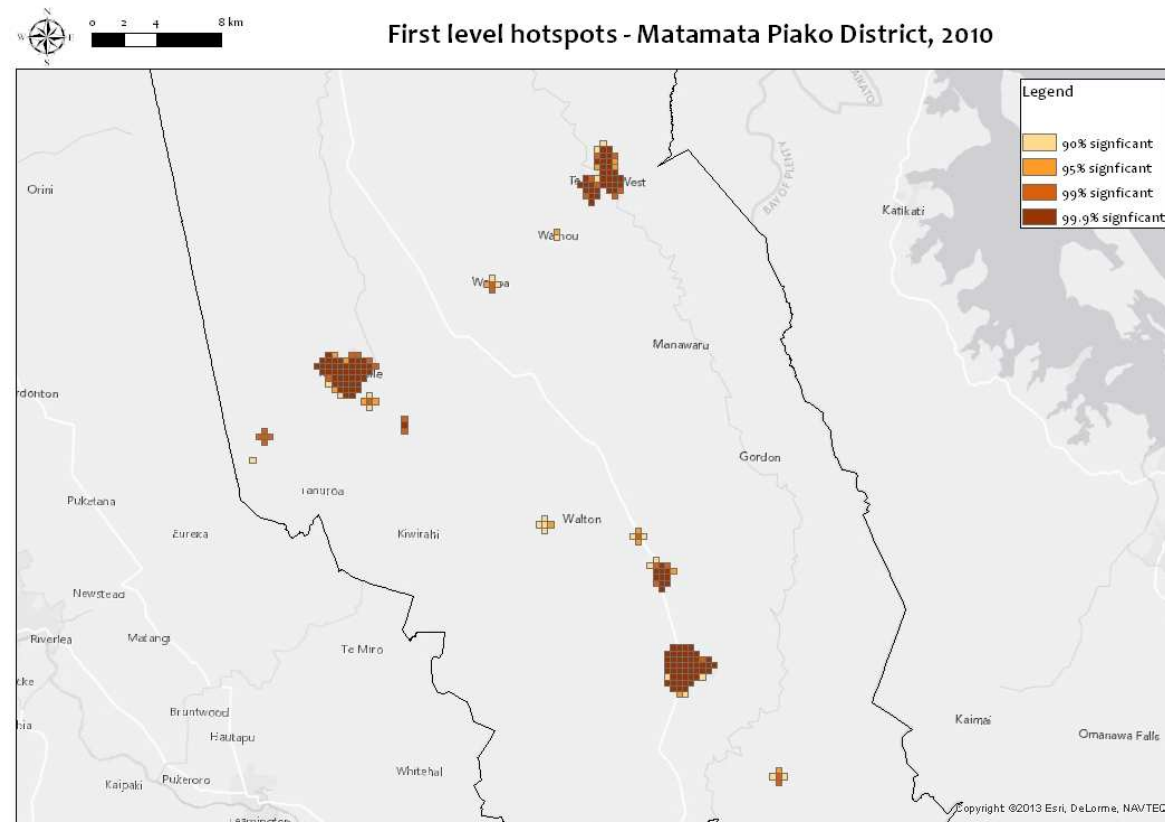
Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2009 (Morrinsville)



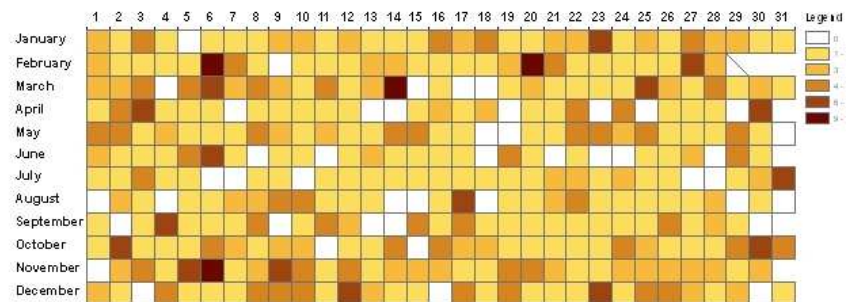


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2009 (Te Aroha)

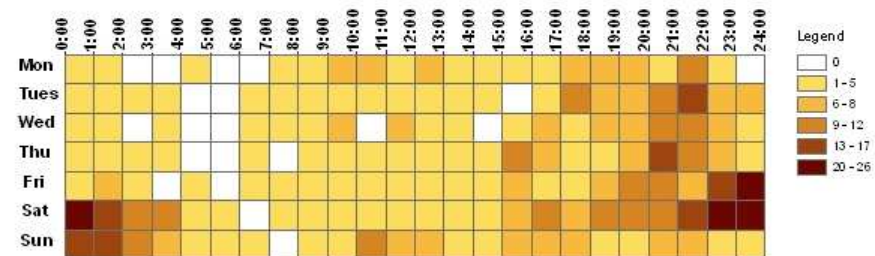




Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2010

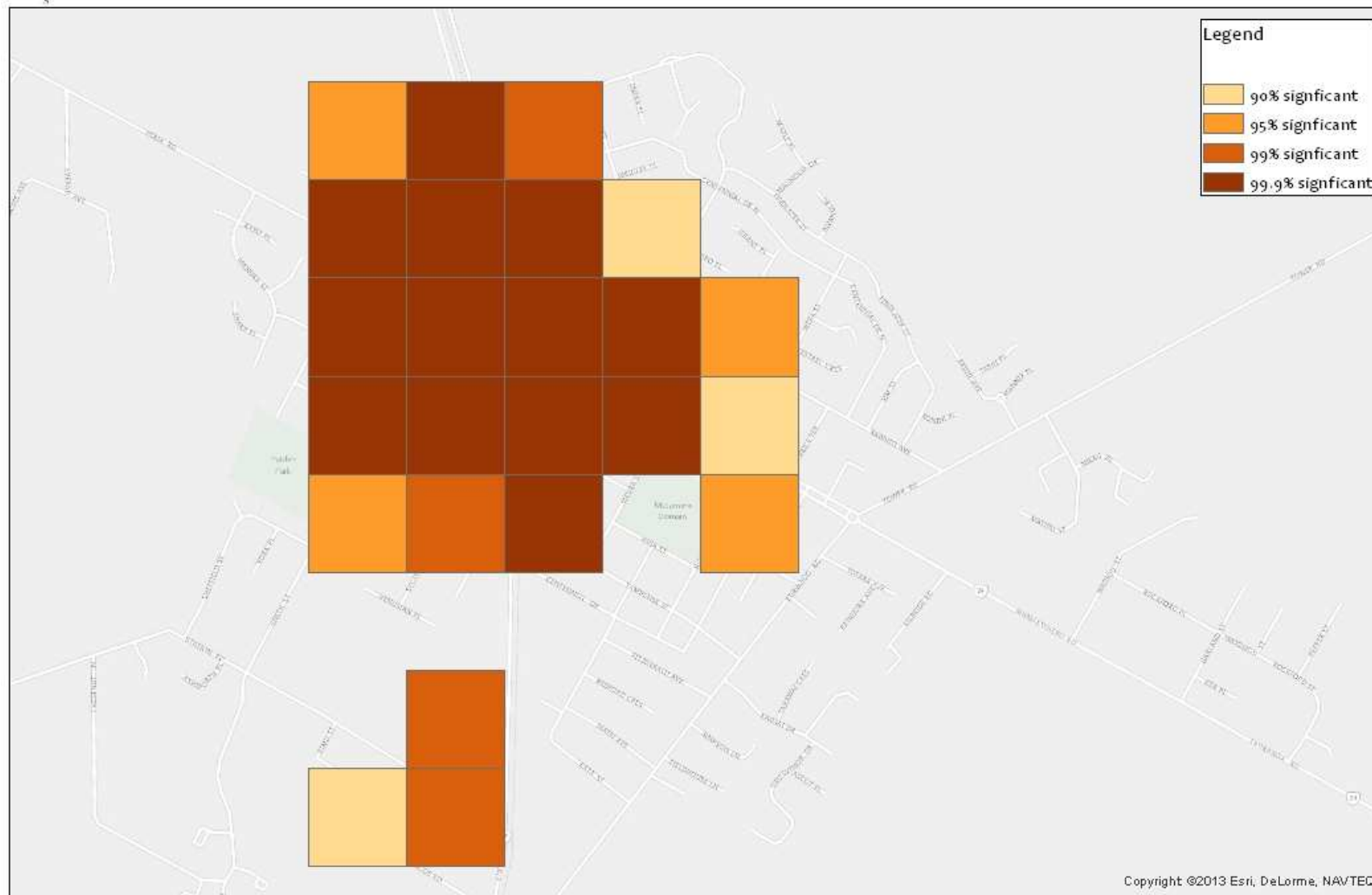


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2010



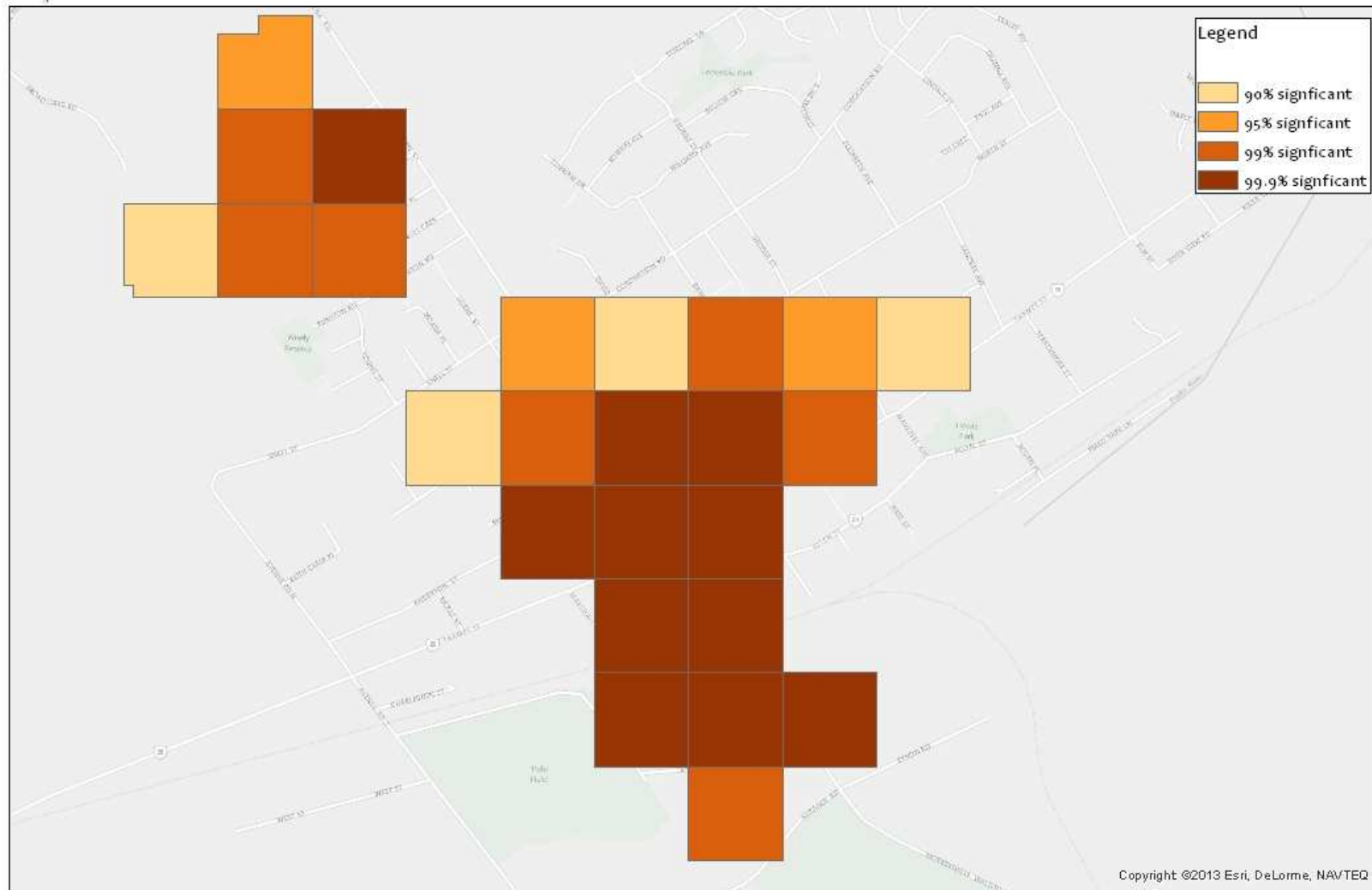


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2010 (Matamata)



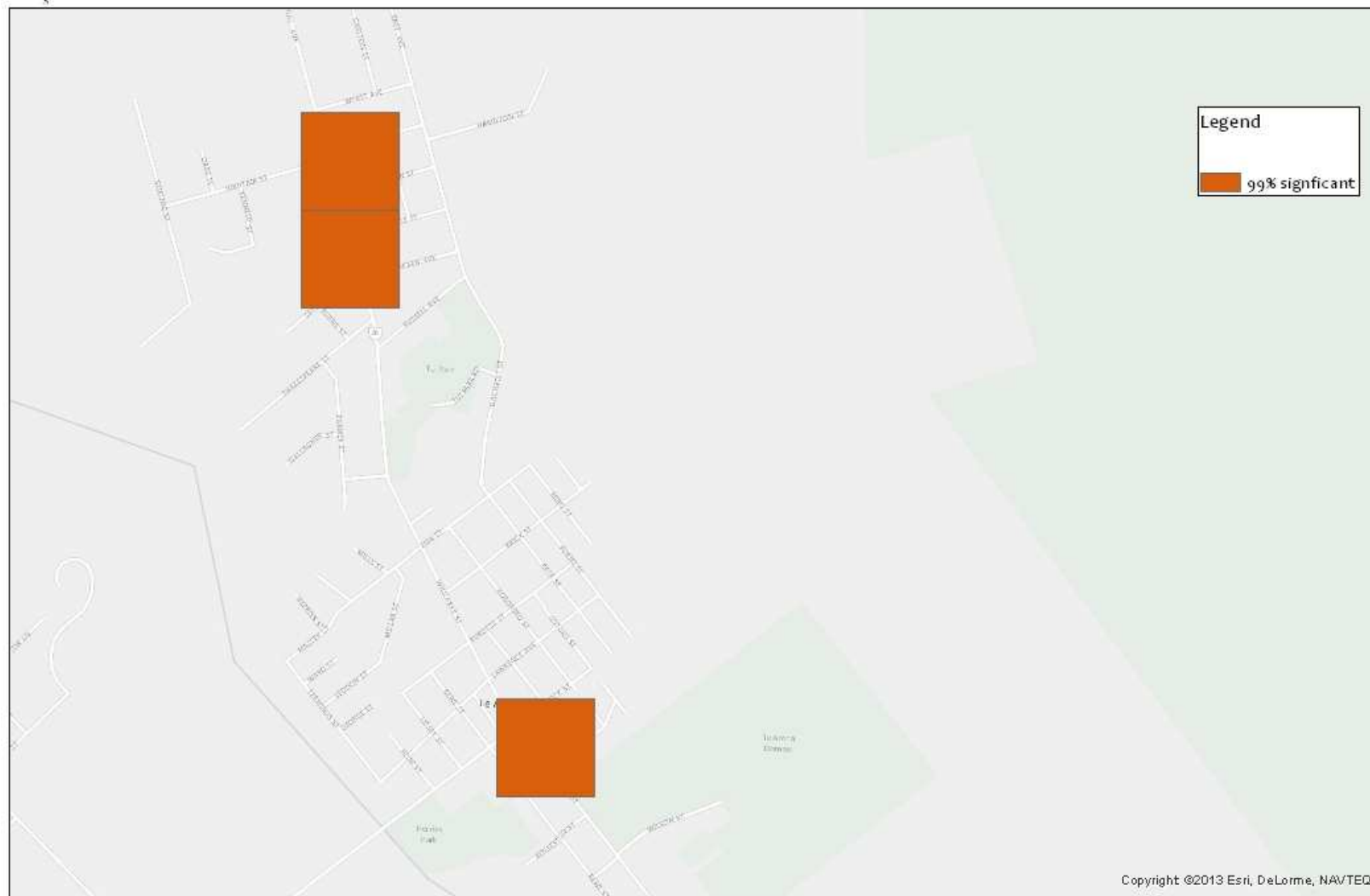


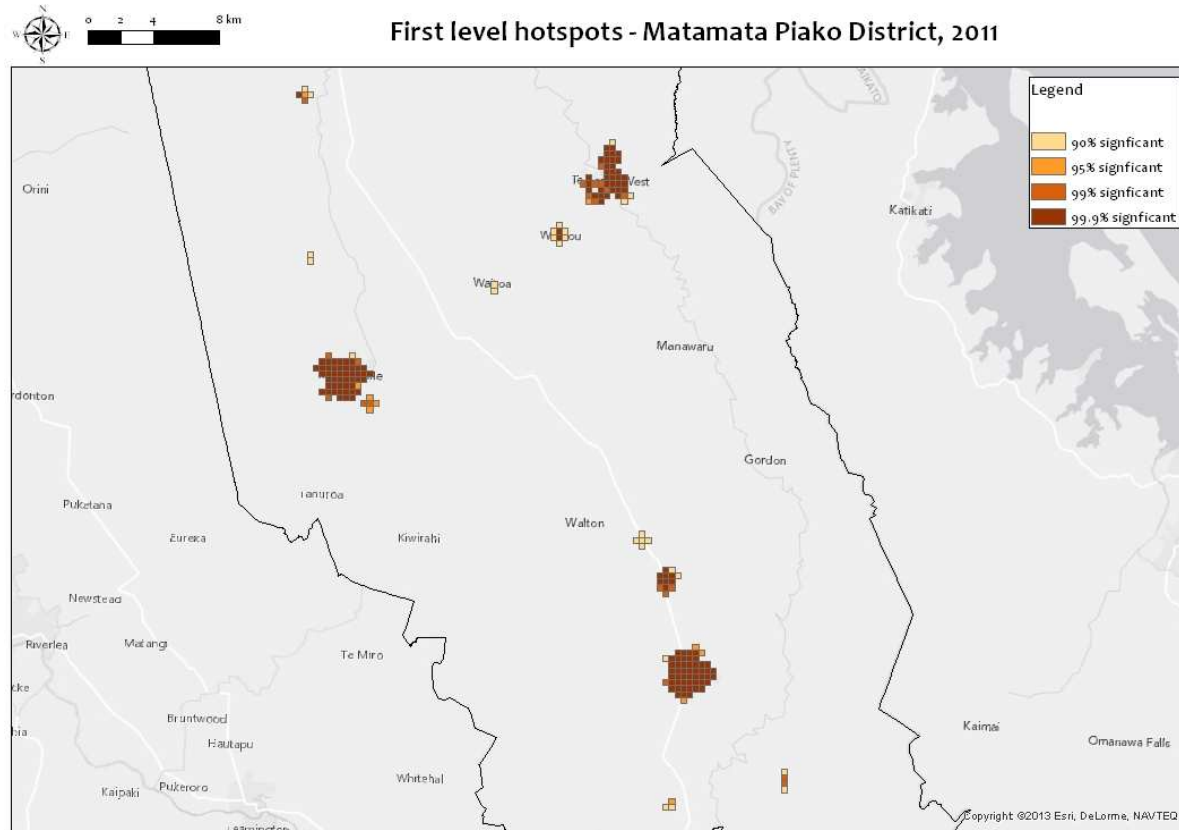
Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2010 (Morrinsville)



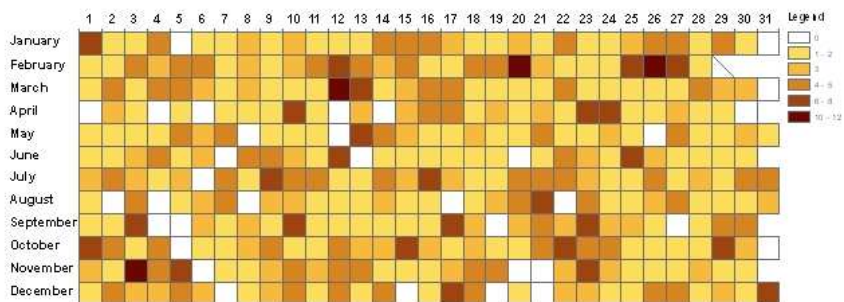


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2010 (Te Aroha)

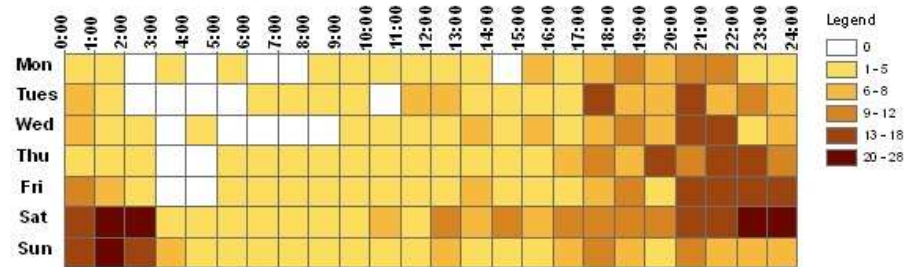




Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2011

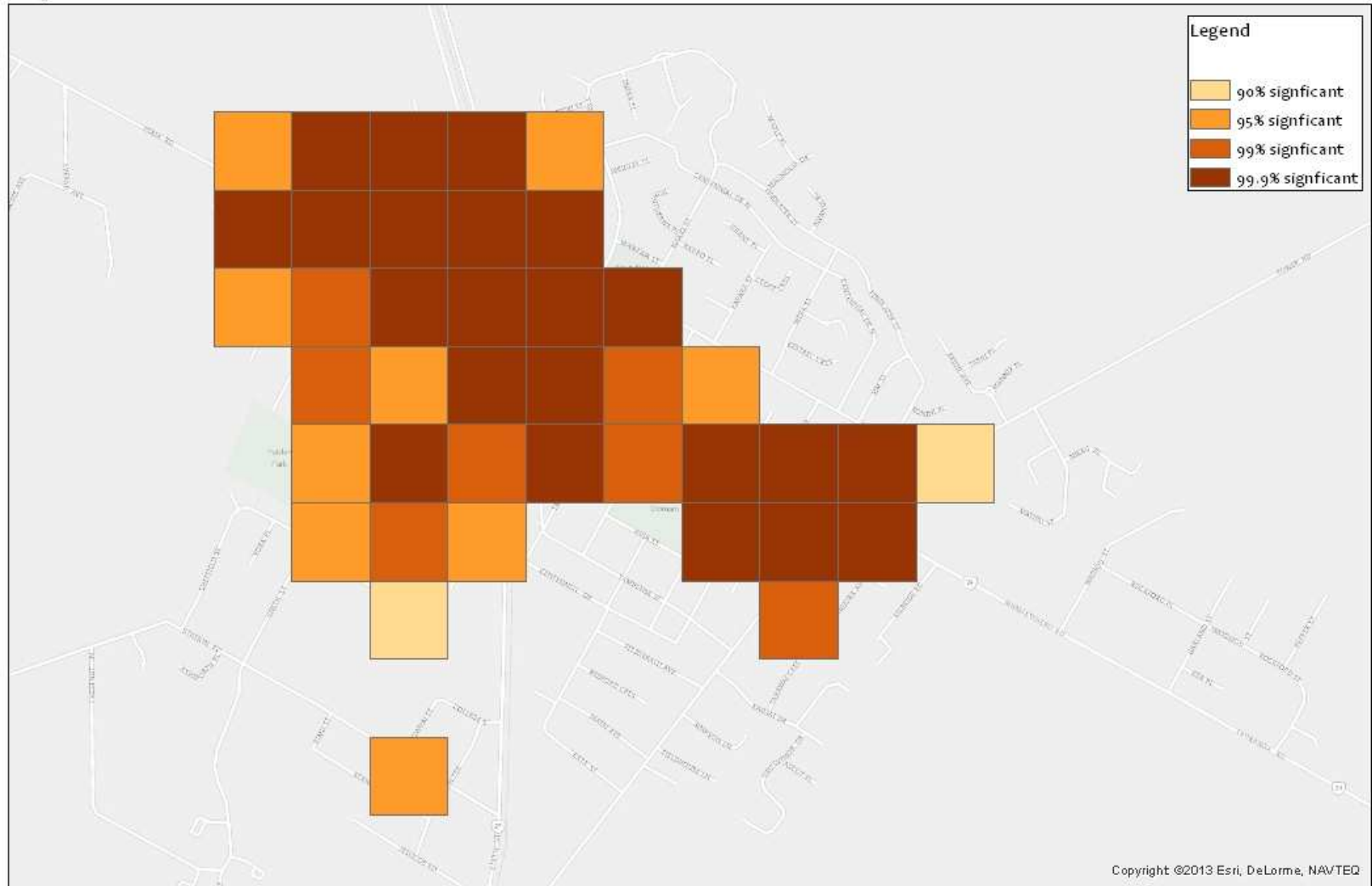


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2011



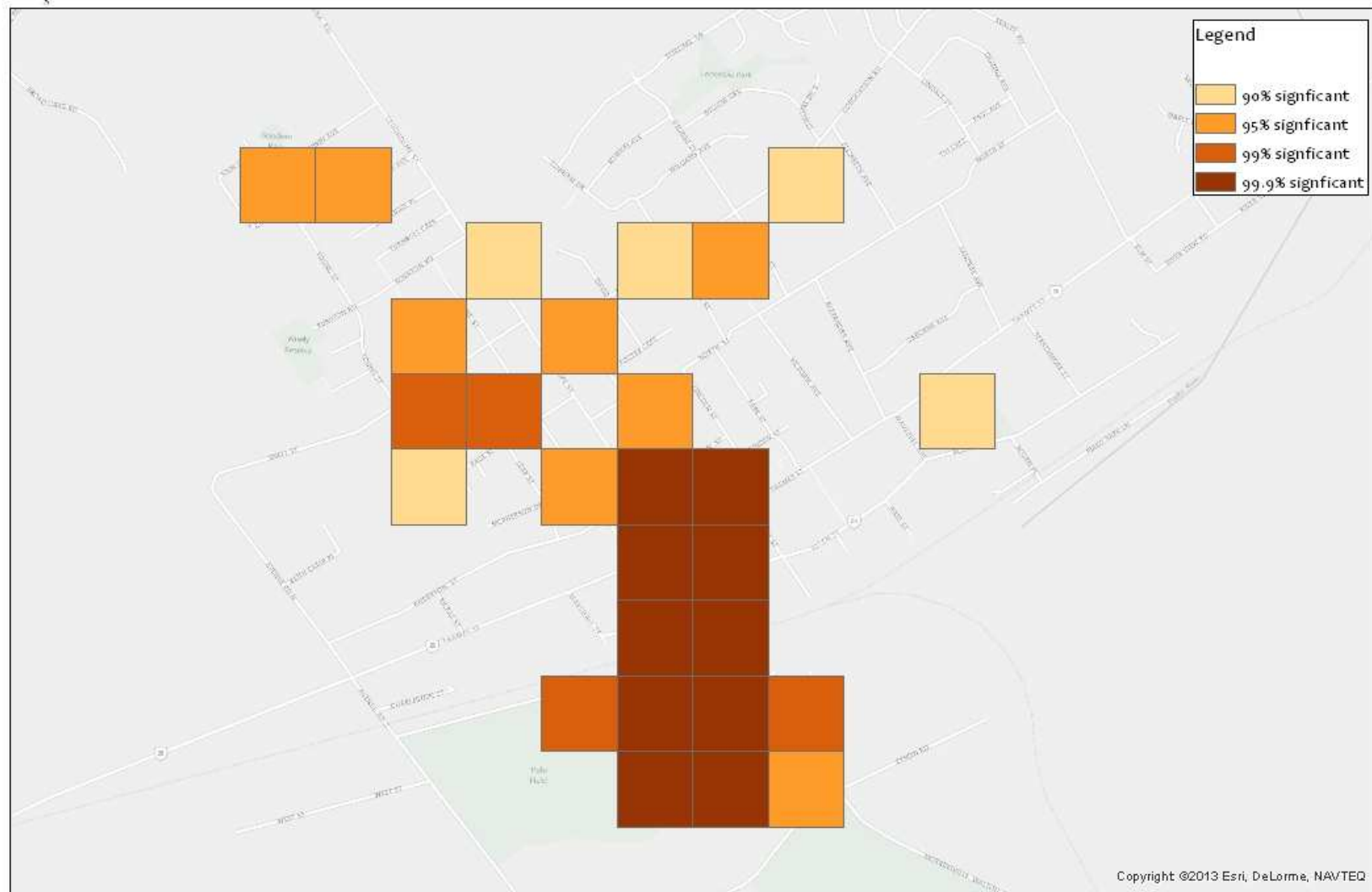


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2011 (Matamata)



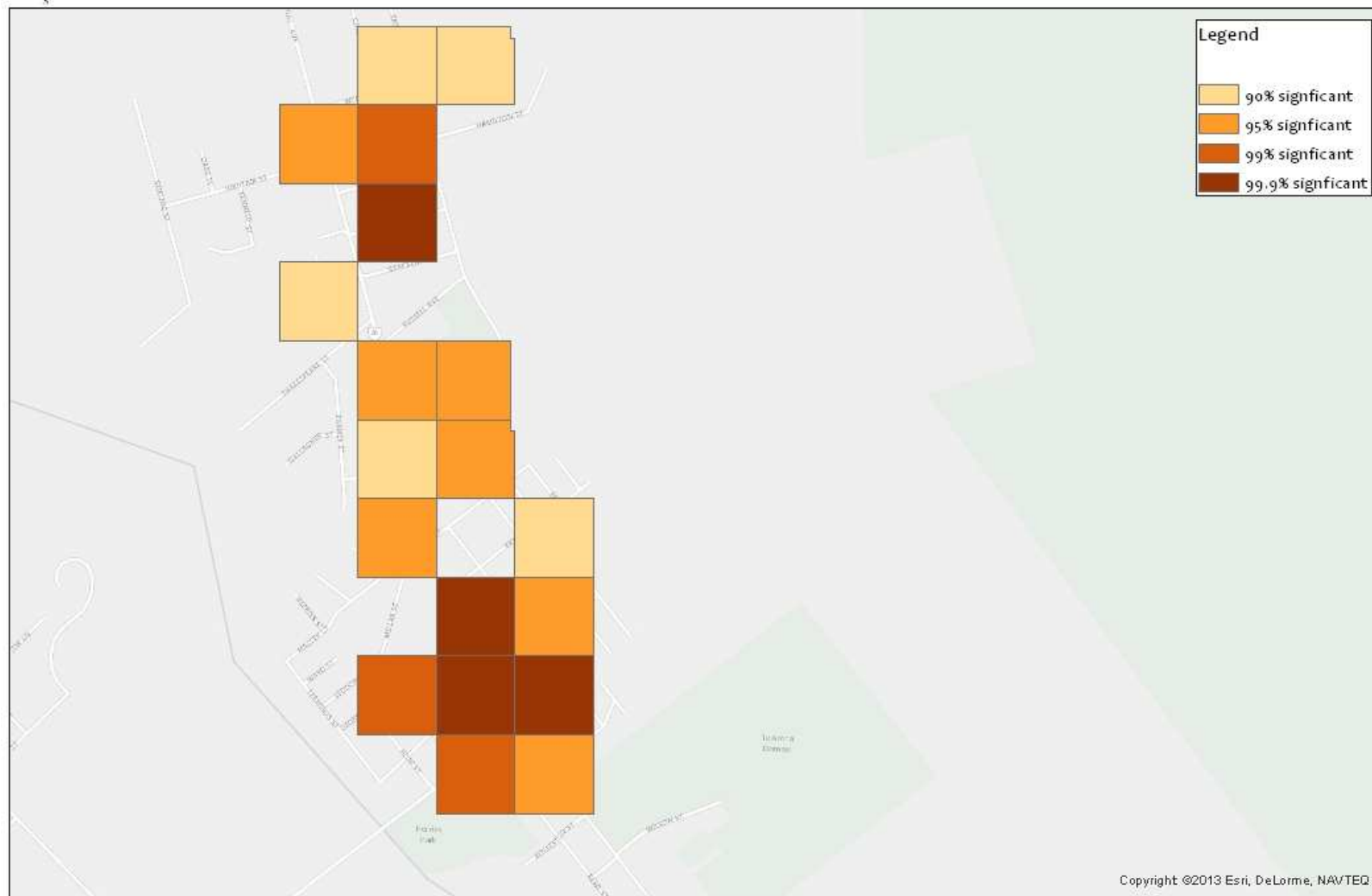


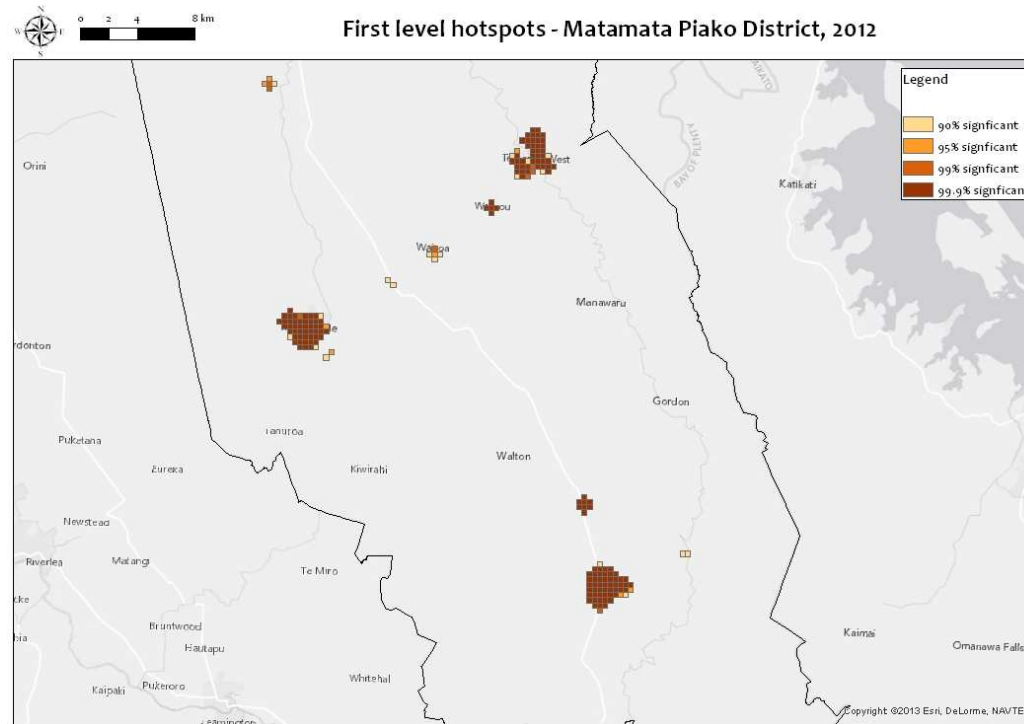
Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2011 (Morrinsville)



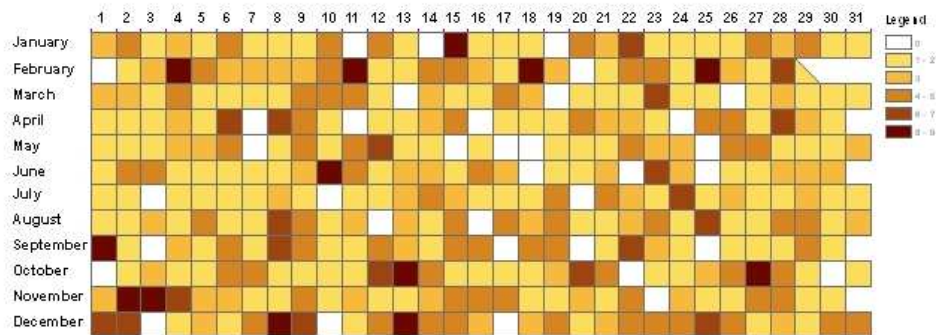


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2011 (Te Aroha)

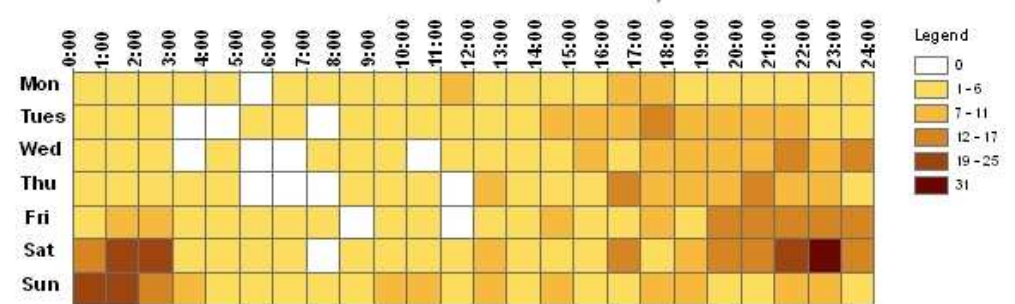


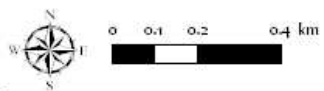


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2012

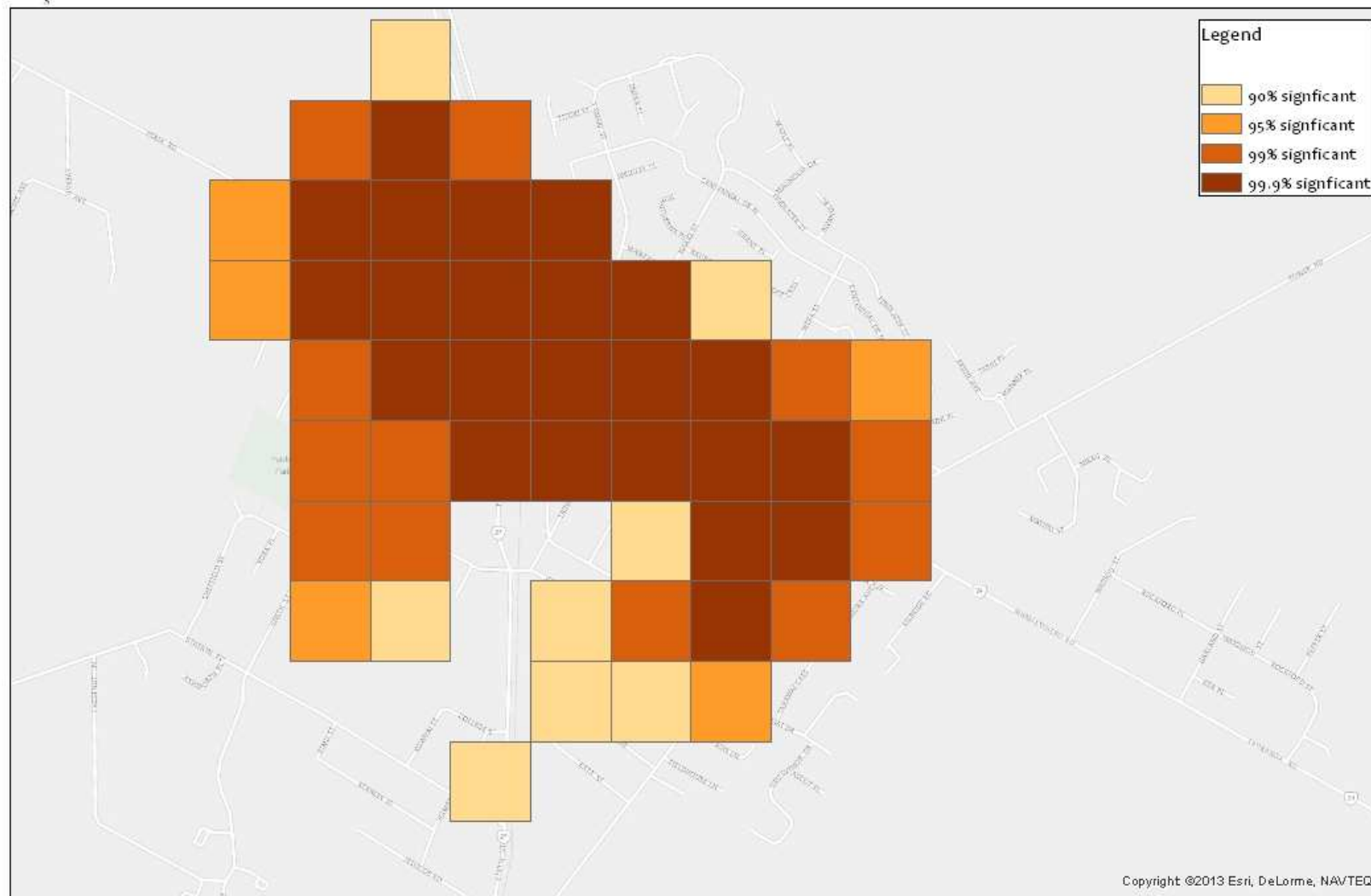


Alcohol-related calls that occurred in second level hotspots -
Matamata Piako District, 2012



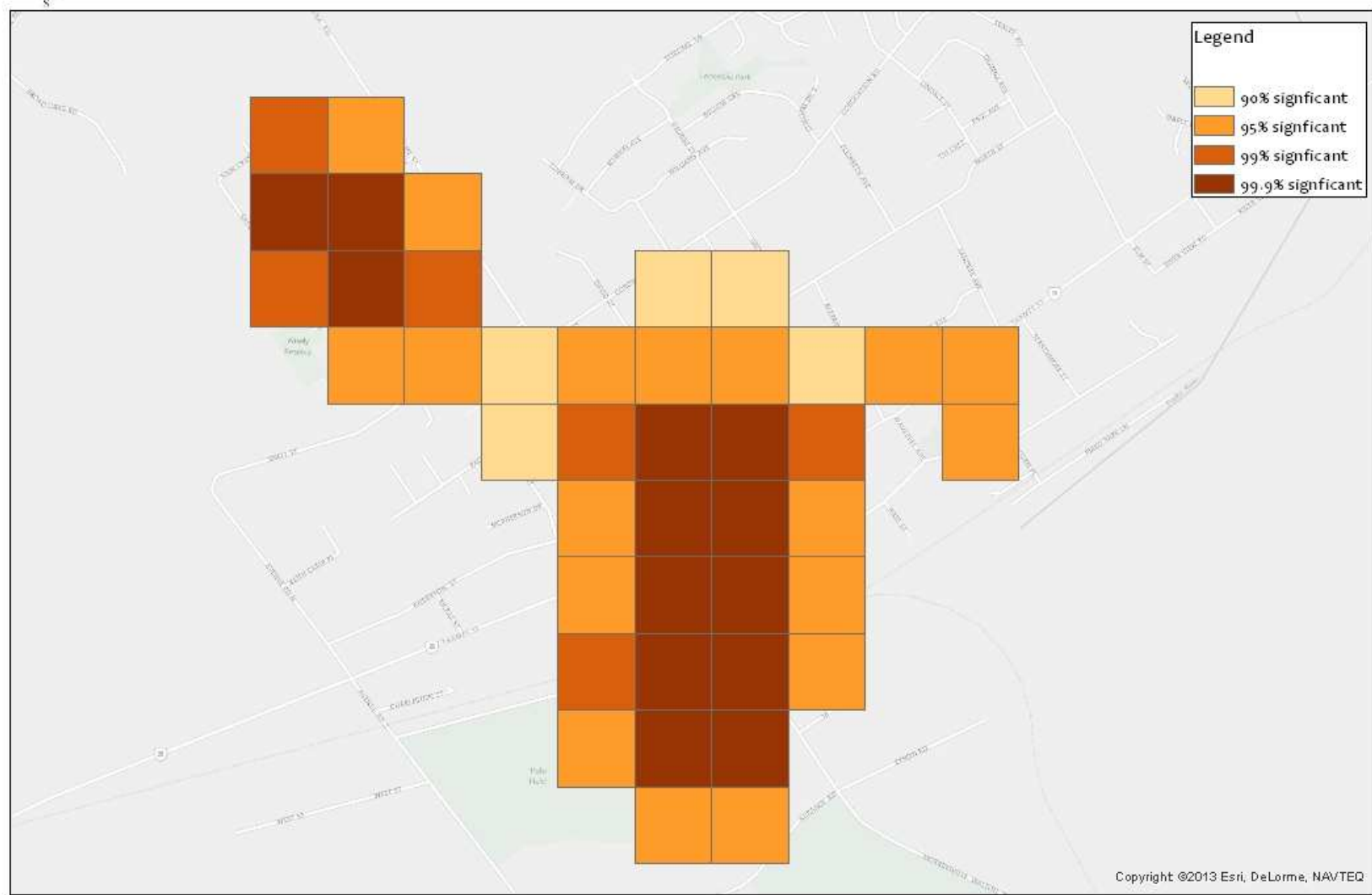


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2012 (Matamata)



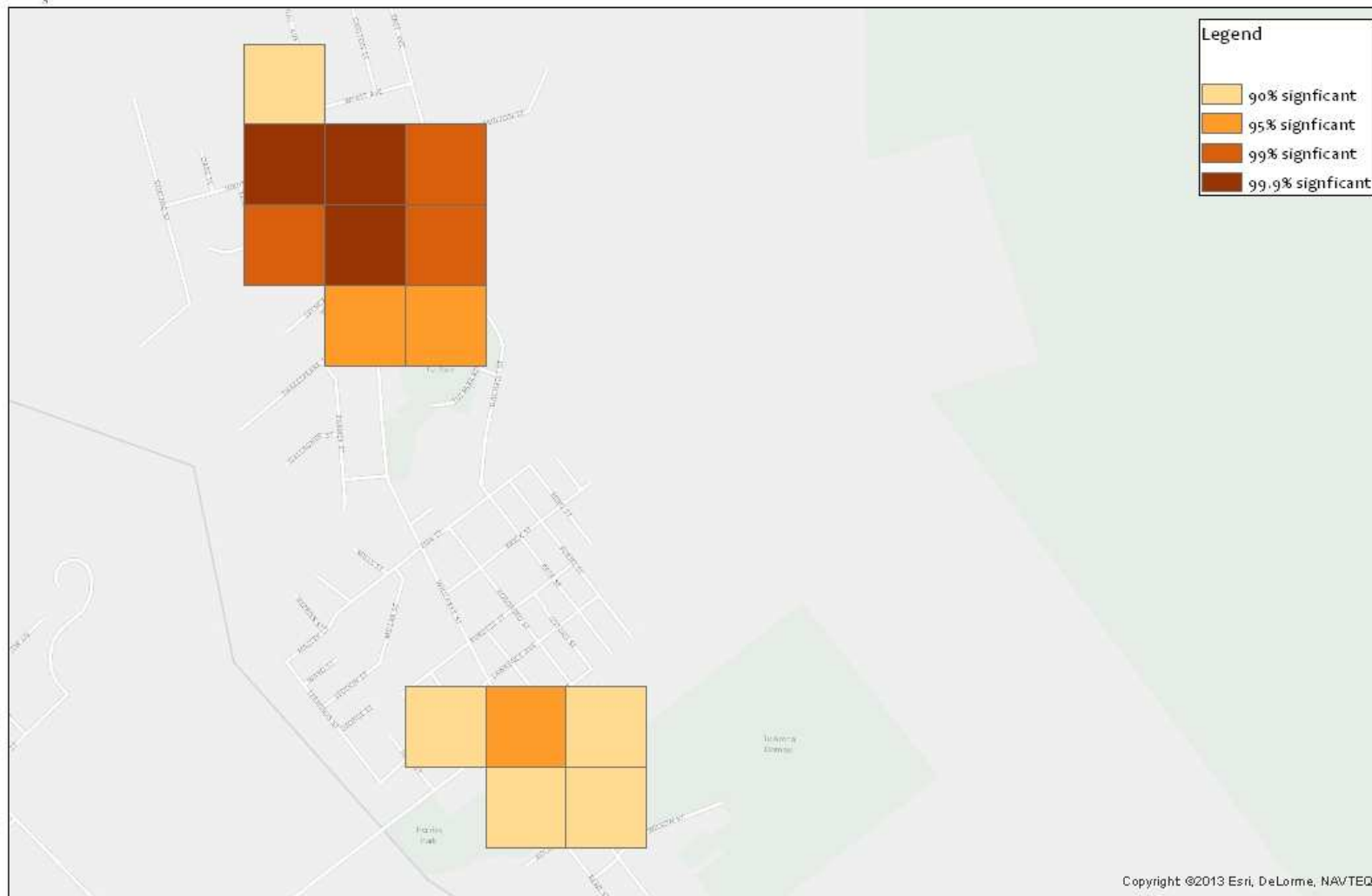


Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2012 (Morrinsville)

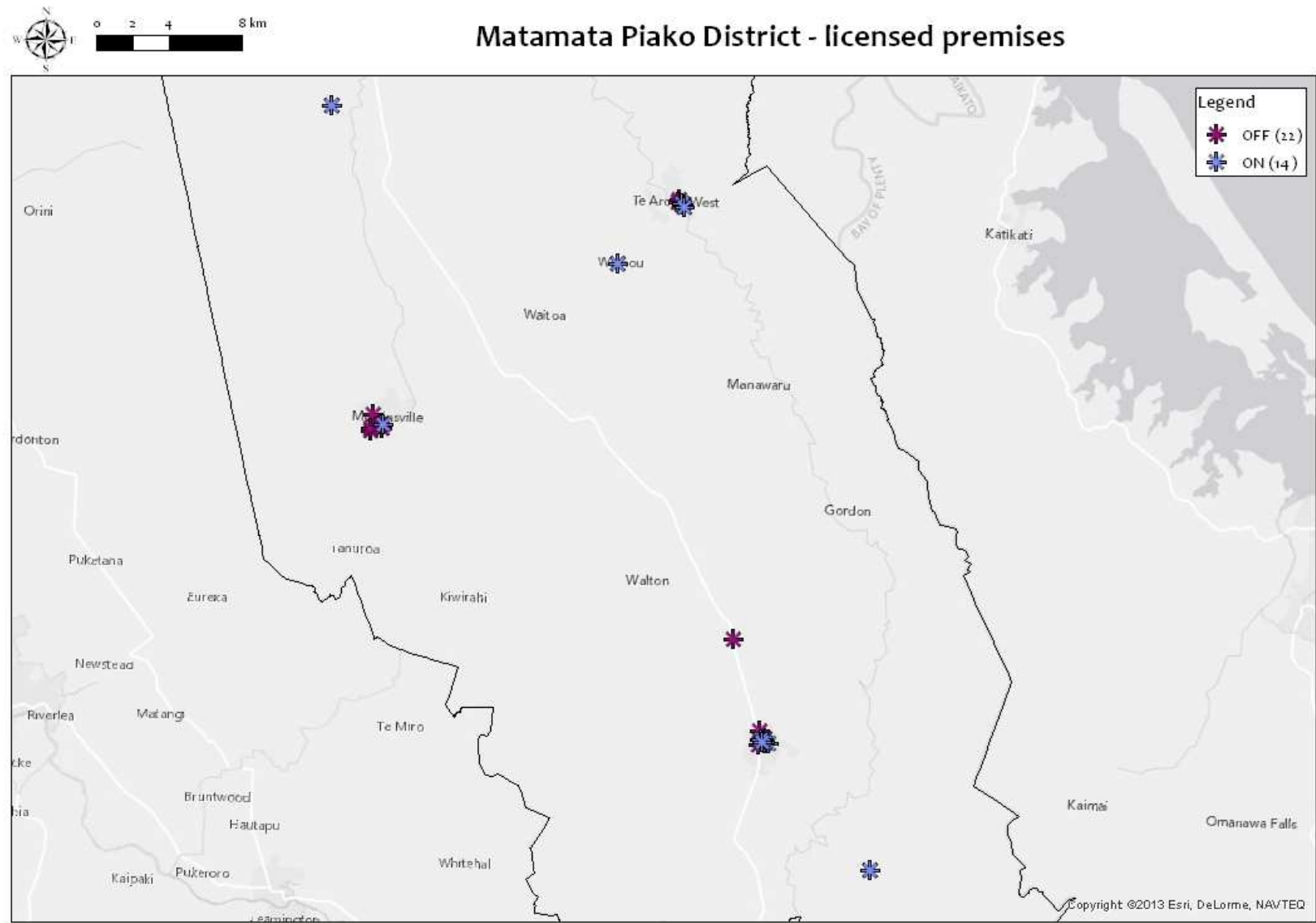




Second level hotspots - Matamata Piako District, 2012 (Te Aroha)

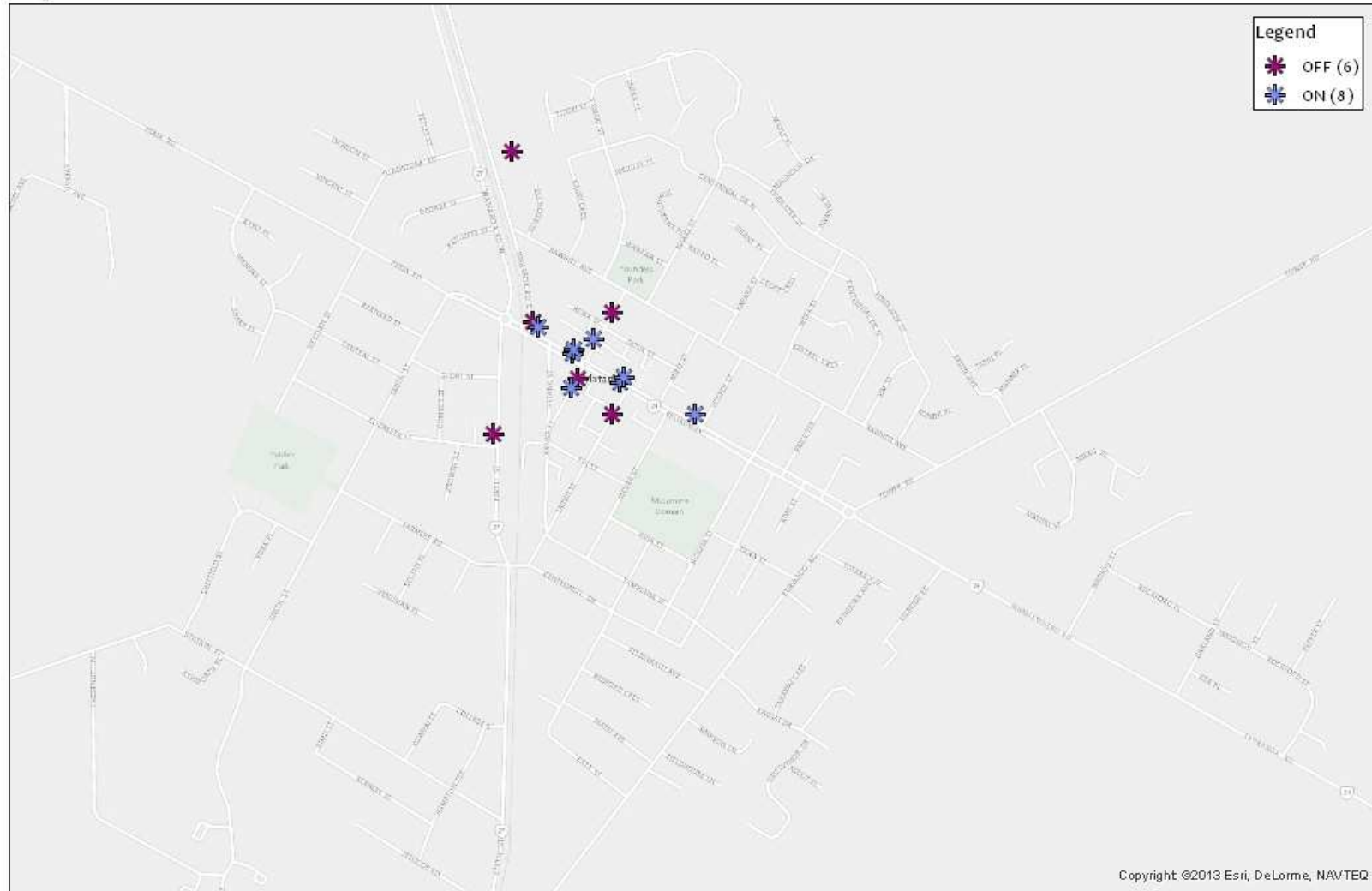


Appendix – Licensed Premises





Matamata Piako District - licensed premises (Matamata)





Matamata Piako District - licensed premises (Morrinsville)





Matamata Piako District - licensed premises (Te Aroha)

